

Catholic Charities Opens Three-Quarter House for Sober Living



Photo credit: Catholic Charities Worcester County

From left, Worcester Co. District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.; The Health Foundation of Central MA President & CEO Dr. Amie Shei; Catholic Charities Executive Director Tim McMahon; Residential Programs Director Meghan McLeod; Catholic Charities Board President Sandra Mahoney; Worcester Mayor Joe Petty; and State Representative David LeBoeuf

[Catholic Charities Worcester County](#) hosted a ribbon-cutting event on August 15 to commemorate the grand opening of its new Three-Quarter House for Independent Sober Living at 19A Ripley Street in Worcester. Over the past nine months, Catholic Charities staff oversaw the renovation of donated property to create a welcoming, 12-bed home that will serve up to 48 men in recovery each year. Foundation staff attended the event to celebrate completion of the project, which was supported through a 2021 Activation Fund grant of \$75,000.

The Three-Quarter House will address a significant need for affordable housing options for men seeking a substance-free living environment upon completing the first stage of recovery. Tenant referrals will be accepted from Crozier House, Catholic Charities' six-month residential rehabilitation program located next door, and similar recovery programs in the community. The goal of a three-quarter program is to offer a higher level of aftercare services than a traditional halfway house, including required participation in 12-step meetings, supervision, and outpatient counseling. This increased level of structure during the transition back to independent living has been shown to reduce the risk of relapse.

Catholic Charities has long been committed to supporting individuals in recovery throughout the Greater Worcester region. In 2018, the Foundation supported its efforts to open a 16-bed substance use recovery home for women in Leominster with a \$75,000

Activation Fund grant. Since the facility opened in January 2020, the 16-bed program has been at full capacity 90% of the time, underscoring the significant need for services in the region. This project is sustained by a contract with the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

In addition to offering substance use treatment and recovery services, Catholic Charities Worcester County provides an array of programs addressing basic needs and other social determinants of health, including food pantries, homecare services for elders and people with disabilities, emergency assistance, shelter for homeless families, ESL classes, and refugee, citizenship and immigration services.

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